

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all previous versions of the claims with the following listing:

1. (Currently Amended) A cylinder head arrangement for a piston compressor, ~~the cylinder head arrangement comprising; particularly for a hermetically enclosed refrigerant compressor, with~~
a cylinder head cover having a discharge chamber therein;
a valve plate having a suction and a discharge opening therein;~~a suction gas channel,~~a discharge chamber and
a retainer element, for limiting the movement of a discharge valve during discharge of compressed gas to the discharge chamber, arranged between the cylinder head cover and the valve plate;[[,]]
wherein [[the]]a suction gas channel is defined between the retainer element and the valve plate, and extends from a radial outer edge, relative to a piston reciprocation axis, of the valve plate and/or the retainer element to the suction opening such that gas enters the suction channel between the retainer element and the valve plate radially, relative to the piston reciprocation axis~~and the discharge chamber are arranged on different sides of the retainer element.~~
2. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the suction gas channel is radially offset, relative to the piston reciprocation axis, from and one flow direction of the discharge gas to the discharge opening~~chamber are arranged to be radial to one another.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]The arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the suction gas channel extends, relative to the piston reciprocation axis, radially inward from the radial outer edge of the valve plate and/or the retainer element before transitioning toward an axial direction, and has, in the area of the deflection~~transition ~~from the radial to the axial direction, a curved baffle.~~
4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the ~~suction gas channel ends in a~~ suction opening, ~~whose~~ has rounded edges are rounded.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~The arrangement according to claim ~~[[6]]~~1, wherein the suction gas channel is formed by a recess in the retainer element and/or in the valve plate.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of suction gas ~~channels are defined between the valve plate and the retainer element~~ channels are defined between the valve plate and the retainer element ~~channel is divided into several sections, each section channel~~ ending in a compression chamber via its own suction opening.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~The arrangement according to claim 8, wherein the suction openings are arranged around ~~[[a]]~~the discharge gas opening ~~arranged in the valve plate.~~
10. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the retainer element and/or the valve plate are made of a material, which has lower heat conductivity than unalloyed steel.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the valve plate and/or the retainer element are made of a ceramic material, high-grade steel or fibre-reinforced plastic.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the valve plate and/or the retainer element have a surface quality and rigidity, which make ~~[[a]]~~additional sealings ~~between the valve plate and the retainer element dispensable.~~

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the valve plate and the retainer element are made as substantially circular discs.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the suction valve and/or the discharge valve are made as leaf valves with a valve leaf, which is part of a suction or discharge valve plate.

15. (New) A cylinder head arrangement for a piston compressor, the arrangement comprising:

- a cylinder for accommodating a piston, the cylinder having reciprocation axis along which the piston reciprocates;

- a cylinder head cover for covering an end of the cylinder and defining a discharge chamber for receiving compressed gas discharged from the cylinder;

- a retainer element arranged between the cylinder head cover and the end of the cylinder;

- a valve plate arranged between the end of the cylinder and the retainer element, the valve plate defining a first discharge opening and a suction opening, the first discharge opening being located radially inward of the suction opening, relative to the reciprocation axis;

- a discharge valve plate arranged between the valve plate and the retainer element, the discharge valve plate defining a discharge valve leaf overlying the first discharge opening; and

- a suction valve plate arranged between the end of the cylinder and the valve plate, the suction valve plate defining a second discharge opening communicating with the first discharge opening and a suction valve leave overlying the suction opening; and

- wherein the valve plates and the retainer element all have, in a plane transverse to the reciprocation axis, a substantially similar surface area, notwithstanding any recesses, openings, or notches defined therein.

16. (New) The arrangement of claim 15, wherein the retainer element, the valve plate, the discharge valve plate, and the suction valve plate are all formed as substantially circular discs.

17. (New) The arrangement of claim 16, wherein the end of the cylinder covered by the cylinder head cover includes a circumferential projection, having substantially the same circumference as the retainer element, the valve plate, the discharge valve plate, and the suction valve plate.

18. (New) The arrangement of claim 15, wherein the retainer element, the valve plate, the discharge valve plate, and the suction valve plate each include a substantially aligned recess.